

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A consignment management device for managing consignment of a product that is delivered and consigned to a customer in the field of call sales comprising:

means for inputting an amount of product consumed by the customer and a call cycle of the customer;

first storage means for storing the input consumed amount;

second storage means for storing the input call cycle;

means for acquiring both the consumed amount from the first storage means and the call cycle from the second storage means and calculating a standard deviation of an amount of the product consumed over a predetermined period by all customers;

third storage means for storing the calculated standard deviation;

means for acquiring the standard deviation from the third storage means and setting an expiry date rank for the product to be consigned to the customer based on the standard deviation; and

means for outputting the set expiry date rank.

2. The consignment management device according to claim 1, wherein the expiry date ranks are classified according to deviation values calculated based on the standard deviation.

3. The consignment management device according to claim 2, wherein the deviation values are calculated based on an average amount of the product consumed by all customers over the predetermined period and an average amount of the product consumed by the customer over the predetermined period.

4. A consignment management method for managing consignment of a product that is delivered and consigned to a customer in the field of call sales, wherein:

an amount of the product consumed by the customer and a call cycle of the customer are input and stored;

a standard deviation of an amount of the product consumed over a predetermined period by all customers is calculated from the stored amount consumed and call cycle and is then stored;

an expiry date rank for the product to be consigned to the customer is set based on the stored standard deviation;

the set expiry date is output; and

a product to be consigned to a customer is decided based on the output expiry date rank.